

1. (Twice Amended) A racket comprising:

a frame with a handle defining a longitudinal main axis;

a head connected to the handle;

31 said head having parallel longitudinal sides and parallel transversal sides, said sides being firmly connected together at their ends such that each of said sides are substantially inflexible in relation to each other;

said head having a racket face, to be spanned by strings;

said head having a means for securing strings to the frame;

a plurality of transversal strings, all being of substantially identical length, running essentially parallel to each other and generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and secured to the frame; and

a plurality of longitudinal strings, all being of substantially identical length, running essentially parallel to each other and parallel to said longitudinal axis and secured to the frame, the transversal strings and longitudinal strings together covering the entire racket face.

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 11 and 13 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takatsuka, U.S. Patent No. 4,861,029 (hereinafter "Takatsuka"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Takatuska fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claim 1, as amended.

Takatuska requires a racket with hinge means for hingedly securing at least one end of each of the frame members in the head frame in a manner which facilitates flexing of the frame members toward one another. See Takatsuka, Spec., col. 2, lines 5-8; 64-67. In contrast, the present invention discloses a frame with "sides being firmly connected together at their ends such that each of said sides are substantially inflexible in relation to each other." See Claim 1, as amended.

The amendment to Claim 1 is fully supported by the drawing in Figure 1 as originally filed, which illustrates the front view of one embodiment of the racket according to this invention.

Based on the foregoing, Takatsuka does not teach or suggest the present invention, and the rejection to amended claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 6, 11 and 13 are dependent on independent claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed to be patentable for the reasons provided hereinabove, claims 2, 6, 11 and 13 are allowable as depending from a patentable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takatuska.

Dependent claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 ultimately depend from independent claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that since claim 1 is believed to be patentable for the reasons provided hereinabove, claims 4, 7, 9 and 12 are allowable as depending from a patentable base claim.

Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be passed to issuance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, early favorable action is solicited.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary for the amendments submitted herein.

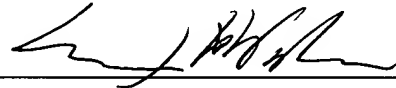
The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1628.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is

requested to grant a petition for that extension of time that is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1628.

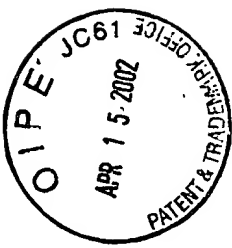
If the Examiner determines that anything is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance which Examiner believes can be handled via telephone, Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at (212) 632-8435. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at mwaldbaum@salans.com.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maxim H. Waldbaum', is written over a horizontal line.

Maxim H. Waldbaum
Registration No. 26,244
Attorney for Applicant(s)

RM/sw



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

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 - a frame with a handle defining a longitudinal main axis;
 - a head connected to the handle;
 - said head having parallel longitudinal sides and parallel transversal sides, said sides being firmly connected together at their ends such that each of said sides are substantially inflexible in relation to each other;
 - said head having a racket face, to be spanned by strings;
 - said head having a means for securing strings to the frame;
 - a plurality of transversal strings, all being of substantially identical length, running essentially parallel to each other and generally perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and secured to the frame; and
 - a plurality of longitudinal strings, all being of substantially identical length, running essentially parallel to each other and parallel to said longitudinal axis and secured to the frame, the transversal strings and longitudinal strings together covering the entire racket face.

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